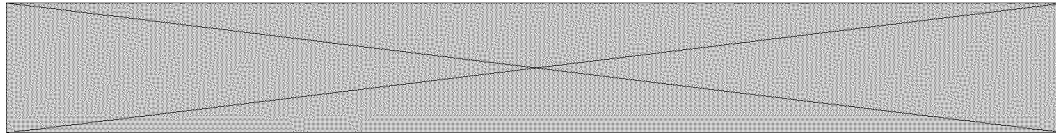


To: Openchowski, Charles[openchowski.charles@epa.gov]
From: pat.hirsch@nrc.gov by E&E Publishing
Sent: Mon 3/10/2014 5:16:06 PM
Subject: From Greenwire -- NUCLEAR WASTE: EPA pressured review board to tone down plan for Mo. radioactive dump

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This Greenwire story was sent to you by: pat.hirsch@nrc.gov

Personal message: I cant believe we are still playing hide the ball on this! doesnt anyone remember watergate??? hope you are doing well!



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NUCLEAR WASTE: EPA pressured review board to tone down plan for Mo. radioactive dump (Monday, March 10, 2014)

A U.S. EPA review board was pressured by the agency to tone down a recommendation for dealing with a contaminated radioactive waste site in Bridgeton, Mo., that has been a source of controversy over its proximity to the populated St. Louis area.

EPA had planned a 2012 review of the site but changed the procedure from a public process to a private "consultation." The agency said the change was necessary because more sampling and testing was needed at the site.

Thousands of tons of radioactive waste remains at the West Lake landfill, where it was illegally dumped 40 years ago. The site is one of hundreds connected to nuclear weapons production in the 20th century that regulators are struggling to clean up, and the waste kept there is projected to be dangerous for hundreds of years.

EPA has pushed ahead with a plan to cover the waste with a protective cap, but some residents want the agency to haul the waste away to some other location. Others, including four members of Missouri's congressional delegation, want the agency to bring in the Army Corps of Engineers, which has more of a specialty in nuclear waste cleanups than EPA.

The agency's National Remedy Review Board had expressed misgivings about the cleanup plan, and EPA officials tried to "soften some recommendations" and asked the board to "remove" information that put the plan in a bad light, said John

Frisco, who served on the board at the time and participated in discussions with EPA.

"It kind of flies in the face of an independent review," Frisco said.

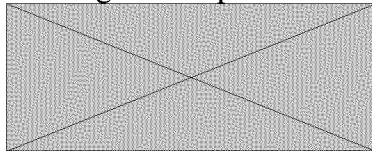
EPA officials said it isn't unusual for nonmembers to participate in review board activities but would not provide internal documents or allow access to officials involved in "pre-decisional, deliberative activities" like the review board (John Emshwiller, *Wall Street Journal*, March 9). -- SP

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E&E Publishing, LLC
122 C St., Ste. 722, NW, Wash., D.C. 20001.
Phone: 202-628-6500. Fax: 202-737-5299.
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